

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 03262 170149Z

71

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 INT-05 /108 W

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R 170053Z AUG 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8688

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3262

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, UNGA, RQ, NO

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO AND THE COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24):

NORWEGIAN VIEWS

REF: (A) COLOMBO 2994; (B) COLOMBO 2978

1. ON AUGUST 16, AMBASSADOR BENNETT AND MISOFF MET WITH NORWEGIAN DEPUTY PERMREP VRAALSEN TO DISCUSS THE STATE OF PLAY OF PUERTO RICO AND THE COMMITTEE OF 24. VRAALSEN EXPRESSED PESSIMISM CONCERNING THE CHANCES OF OBTAINING POSTPONEMENT OF A RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24, BUT NEVERTHELESS COMMITTED HIMSELF TO PROCEED WITH THE EFFORT AND TO MOVE FOR POSTPONEMENT AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME. HE SAID THAT CUBA APPEARS COMMITTED TO SOME RESOLUTION IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AND IDENTIFIED CUBAN EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF SUCH A RESOLUTION AS THE PRIMARY IMPEDIMENT TO ACHIEVING POSTPONEMENT. VRAALSEN EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO AT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (REF A) AS WELL AS THE AMENDMENT ON PUERTO RICO (REF B) ON THE POLITICAL DECLARATION WHICH THE CUBANS ET. -AL. HAVE PROPOSED.

2. VRAALSEN INFORMED US OF THE LATEST TENTATIVE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 03262 170149Z

SCHEDULE FOR THE COMMITTEE OF 24:

AUGUST 19 AND 20 - CONSIDERATION OF SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS.

AUGUST 23 (AND TWO ADDITIONAL MEETINGS) - CONSIDERATION OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES BY THE C-24 PLENARY. FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER - PUERTO RICO. VRAALSEN EMPHASIZED THAT FURTHER SLIPPAGE IS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT C-24 CHAIRMAN SALIM (TANZANIA) IS EXPECTED BACK ON AUGUST 23 OR 25 AND THAT NO FINAL DECISION WILL BE MADE ON SCHEDULING OF THE FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES ITEMS UNTIL SALIM'S RETURN. VRAALSEN SAID HE WOULD PREFER NOT RPT NOT TO BE IN THE CHAIR DURING THE C-24 CONSIDERATION F THOSE ITEMS SINCE HE COULD PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE DEBATE FROM THE NORWEGIAN SEAT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO OUR RECAPITULATION OF THE C-24'S CRITICISM OF NATO LAST YEAR, VRAALSEN ASSURED US THAT HE WOULD SPEAK UP FOCEFULLY IN DEFENSE OF NATO AND WILL GIVE NATO CRITICS "WHAT THEY DESERVE."

4. VRAALSEN AGREED THAT US DEMARCHES IN C-24 CAPITALS AND IN NEW YORK WOULD BE USEFUL ON PUERTO RICO BUT EMPHASIZED HIS STRONG CONVICTION THAT THESE APPROACHES SHOULD BE LOW-KEY, AND OBJECTIVE IN TONE. VRAALSEN EMPAHSIZED THE POSITIVE RESULTS WHICH THE INVITATION OF A C-24 VISITING MISSION TO A NON-SELF-GOVERNING US TERRITORY SUCH AS GUAM WOULD HAVE ON C-24'S CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO, AS WELL AS THEIR CONSIDERATION OF ALL US NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES.

5. RECAPITULATING AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH CUBAN PERMREP ALARCON, VRAALSEN SAID THAT ALARCON DID NOT THINK THAT CUBA COULD WIN ON AN EFFORT TO INSCRIBE AN ITEM ON PUERTO RICO IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BUT THAT THE BROUHAHA WHICH WOULD SURROUND SUCH AN EFFORT WOULD SUIT CUBA. ALARCON TOLD VRAALSEN THAT A RESOLUTION IN THE C-24 ALONG THE LINES OF THE 1973 C-24 RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO WOULD SATISFY CUBA AND WOULD PROBABLY BE PREFERABLE TO THE USG TO A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 03262 170149Z

FIGHT IN THE GA ON PUERTO RICO. AMBASSADOR BENNETT STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT THE US WOULD NOT ACQUIESCE IN SUCH A RESOLUTION. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, ANTICOLONIALISM, DEPENDENCY GOVERNMENT, UNGA RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN03262
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760314-1175
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760844/aaaabmob.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COLOMBO 2994, 76 COLOMBO 2978
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUERTO RICO AND THE COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24): NORWEGIAN VIEWS
TAGS: PFOR, RQ, NO, UN, UNGA, NATO, C-24
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006